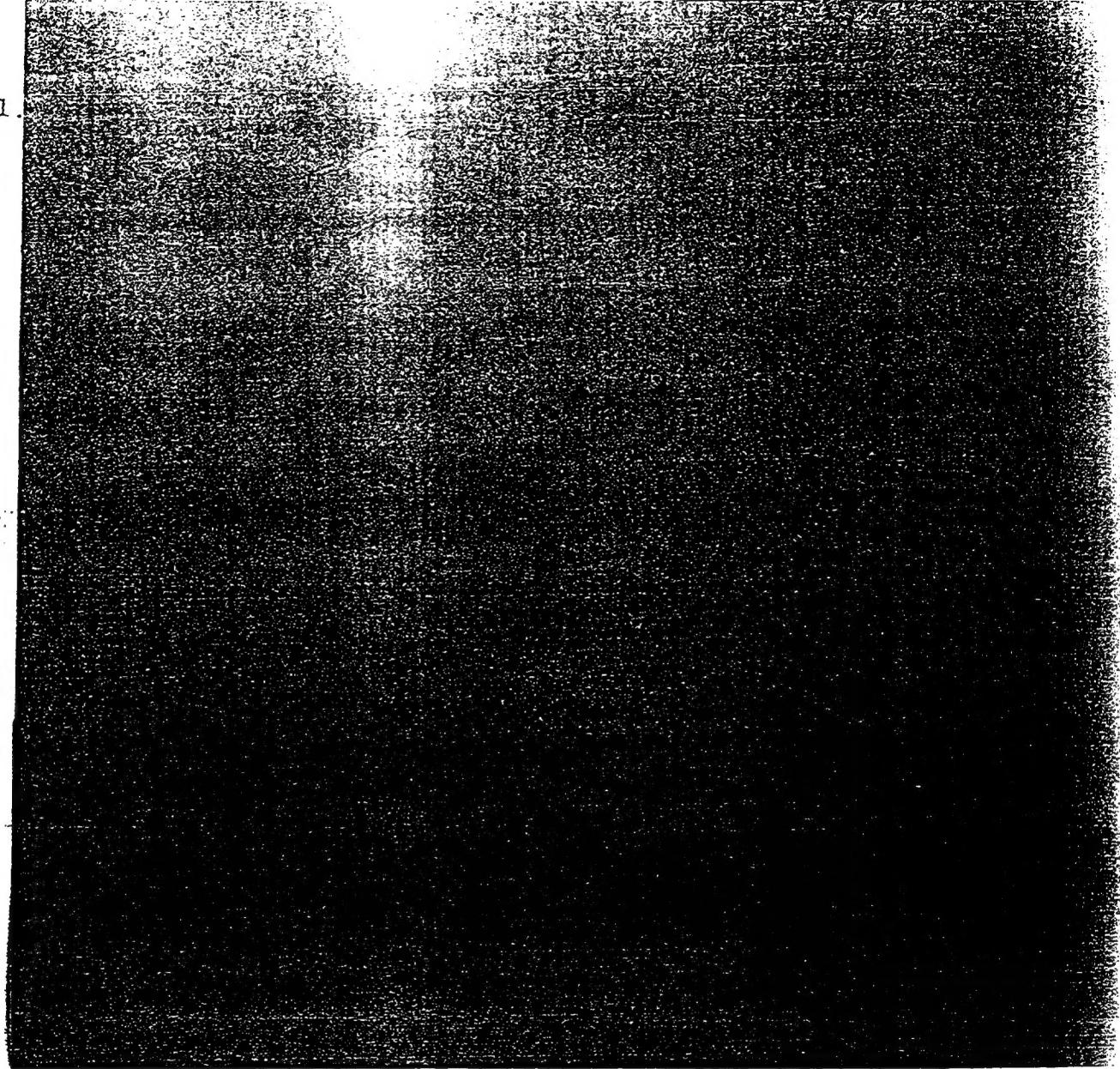


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12. Venezuelan and Peruvian Foreign Ministers May Resign as Result of OAS Meeting in San Jose: The pro-Cuban and anti-US statements and actions of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arcaya and Peruvian Foreign Minister Porras at the San Jose meeting appeared to be representative of political party positions and in violation of their official instructions. As a consequence, both may resign shortly unless some face-saving formulas are devised to permit their continuance as cabinet ministers.

The issue could arouse serious political reactions in both countries, where pro-Castro groups are promoting unrest. In Venezuela, the resignation of Arcaya, whose leftist Democratic Republican Union party has co-operated with other leftists and Communists in support of Castro, could threaten President Betancourt's coalition. Pro-Castro demonstrations broke out in Caracas on 29 August, and Betancourt, who is known to be hostile to Castro, has been confronted by considerable pro-Castro violence recently.

Porras is a friend of the leftist but non-Communist APRA party, which has been largely sympathetic toward the objectives of the Cuban revolution. A dissident wing of the party is strongly pro-Castro. His resignation could similarly touch off pro-Castro violence in Peru, which initiated the meeting in San Jose. It could also provoke a struggle between APRA--which has generally supported President Prado--and its bitter enemies in the armed forces and conservative groups.

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